



**Confronting HIV/AIDS in Military Settings
XV International AIDS Conference
Bangkok, Thailand**

Date: July 14, 2004 Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Military populations are often overlooked with respect to HIV prevention and care programs and are often considered high-risk populations. However, the military, with their well defined populations, known denominators, and controlled settings provide enhancements to conducting research and providing care that can also be translated and applied to the civilian sector. As the military and their families are an important segment of the general population, intervening in the military helps the civilian population, too.

The US Department of Defense HIV Prevention Program (DHAPP) has been assisting foreign militaries in developing and conducting HIV/AIDS prevention programs for the past 4 years. Initially in Africa, DHAPP has now expanded globally and is working with militaries in 41 countries. This symposium will explore HIV/AIDS policy, surveillance, laboratory infrastructure, prevention, and treatment issues in military settings through the presentations of invited speakers and an interactive panel discussion. The speakers will draw from their experiences working with the militaries of Thailand, India, Nigeria, Angola, South Africa, and others as reference points. The objectives of this session are to (1) share the many success and challenges of HIV/AIDS prevention and care in military settings, and (2) consider future strategies for reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS among military populations. This satellite meeting is intended to be of interest to military personnel, researchers, members of nongovernmental organizations and university faculty who are interested in working with military populations or understanding how HIV/AIDS is handled in the military setting.

Program

Opening Remarks: U.S. Department of Defense HIV Prevention Program (DHAPP)

Policy: *Thailand:* The Importance of Policy Commitment: The Royal Thai Army Experience

Surveillance: *India:* Tracking HIV/AIDS through surveillance in the Armed Forces

Laboratory: *Nigeria:* University of Maryland, Institute for Human Virology. Setting Up a Laboratory Infrastructure to Support HIV/AIDS Prevention.

Prevention: *Angola:* Charles R. Drew University. Mobilizing the Military for Multifaceted HIV Prevention Activities.

UNAIDS: Engaging Young Men and Women in the Uniform Services in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Treatment: *South Africa:* Establishment of a Clinical Research Network within the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Panel discussion